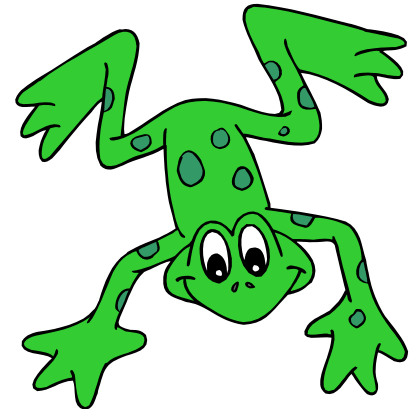


# First Grade Leaps Into Learning

March 2011



## *Math News*

We began working on place value in February and will continue to learn about this concept in March. We have been playing "counting games" with "counting rules" in bases other than ten to help give students a concrete understanding of place value (Math SOL 1.1).

We looked for and analyzed the patterns that emerged from playing our "counting games" and now we are transferring this understanding to our base ten system.

We will continue to review and practice basic addition and subtraction facts. We will also take a break from our place value work to practice using fact families as a computation strategy to improve speed and accuracy in adding and subtracting (Math SOL 1.5).

We'll also be working on skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's to 100 (Math SOL 1.2). You can easily practice skip counting at home or in the car!!

## *Enrichment News*

Last week the science topic was natural resources (Science SOL 1.8). Students are expected to understand that natural resources are limited. They should be able to identify natural resources such as plants, animals, water, land, forests, and soil. They should be able to explain how recycling, reusing, and reducing consumption of natural resources can help the environment.

We have been learning about Benjamin Franklin and his many accomplishments (Social Studies SOL 1.2). First graders are expected to know that Benjamin Franklin proved that electricity is present in lightning through his kite experiment. They also should know that he started the first library and first volunteer fire department in America.

## *Enrichment News (continued)*

During the rest of the month we will have fun reading some St. Patrick's Day stories and doing some related activities. We'll finish out March learning about seasonal changes for people, plants, animals, and Earth as we move into spring (Science SOL 1.7).

## *Writing Expectations*

The third advisory writing expectations are to:

- ✓ write a minimum of **three** sentences that make sense and focus on one writing topic or idea
- ✓ use capital letters to begin sentences, **I**, and names of people
- ✓ use the appropriate punctuation mark to end a sentence.
- ✓ apply spelling skills.
- ✓ include "describing words" or adjectives in writing.

We are learning to **C.L.A.P.** to revise and edit their writing. It stands for **C=Check** for capital letters. **L=Look** at spelling. **A=Ask** whether each sentence makes sense. **P=Put** punctuation marks where they are needed. They have been correcting my "errors" when I write to practice this important skill!

## *Important Dates in March*

March 7 - Interim Reports Issued

March 14 - NO SCHOOL Professional Day for Teachers

March 16 - PTO Meeting at 7 p.m.

March 18 - Blandy Farm permission slip and money due

March 23 - Individual Spring Pictures

March 25 - PTO Game Night from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



## ***SAVE THIS DATE!!***

We will be going to the National Zoo on **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

One parent per child is strongly encouraged to go on this trip!

We'll leave at 7:45 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m.

**The cost will be \$20 per person. Start saving your money now!!**

We'll begin collecting money and permission slips in April.